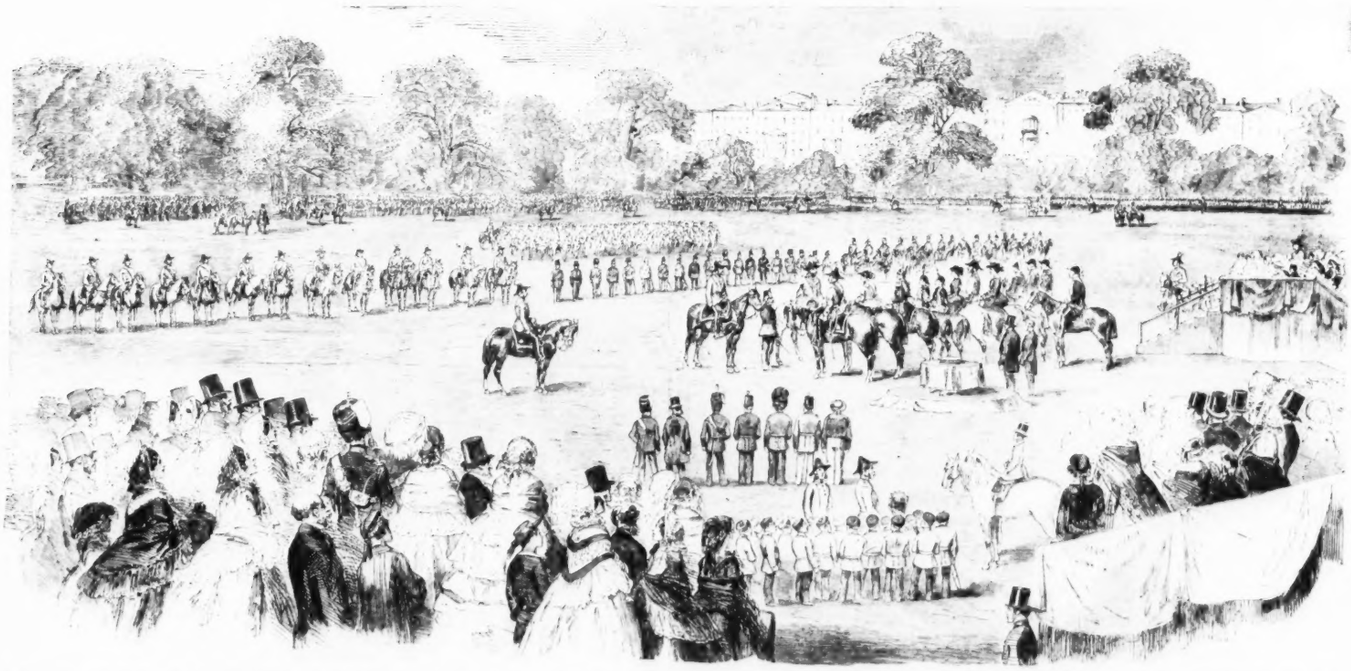
QUEEN VICTORIA PRESENTING THE FIRST VICTORIA CROSSES: A WATER-COLOUR PAINTING, POSSIBLY BY CONSTANTIN GUYS, OF THE 1857 INVESTITURE. MOUNTED IN THE LEFT BACKGROUND ARE PRINCE ALFRED AND THE PRINCE OF WALES. ON HORSEBACK NEXT TO THEM IS PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM. ON THE RIGHT, MOUNTED, ARE THE PRINCE CONSORT AND FIELD MARSHAL VISCOUNT COMBERMERE. SIR CHARLES WOOD, IN NAVAL UNIFORM, STANDS BEHIND THE SEAMAN, FACING THE QUEEN; SLIGHTLY OBSCURED BY THE SEAMAN IS SIR GEORGE WETHERALL IN ARMY UNIFORM; AND LORD PANMURE WAITS ON THE QUEEN'S LEFT.



A GRAND AND GLITTERING CAVALCADE OF MOUNTED TROOPS, INFANTRY, MARINES AND BLUEJACKETS: THE SCENE IN HYDE PARK DURING THE FIRST INVESTITURE OF THE VICTORIA CROSS HELD BY QUEEN VICTORIA IN 1857. AN ENGRAVING FROM *THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS* OF JULY 4, 1857.

THE CENTENARY OF BRITAIN'S PREMIER AWARD FOR VALOUR: TWO CONTEMPORARY RECORDS SHOWING QUEEN VICTORIA PRESENTING THE FIRST VICTORIA CROSSES IN HYDE PARK.

The Crimean War brought to light many instances of extreme personal gallantry for which there existed no adequate acknowledgement. What was needed was an award of no great material benefit but which signified more than any other honour it was possible to bestow, the conspicuous gallantry of the serving man, of whatever rank, in the presence of the enemy. The answer was the Victoria Cross. Founded by Royal Warrant dated January 29, 1856, it was originally cast in gun-metal from cannon captured at Sebastopol. The design and the simple inscription, "For Valour," were chosen by Queen Victoria on January 5, 1856. The first distribution of the Victoria Cross to sixty-one officers and men of the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines and the Army took place on the morning of June 26, 1857, in Hyde Park. Before ten o'clock, a grand and glittering cavalcade of mounted troops, infantry, Marines and bluejackets had assembled in the Park to await the Queen's arrival from Buckingham Palace. At a few minutes to the hour, the horse artillery unlimbered their guns, and a flash of fire, a wreath of smoke, and the report of a gun announced that the Queen had entered the Park. Her Majesty was mounted on a roan charger, and wore a riding-habit with dark blue skirt and scarlet jacket and a gold-embroidered sash over the left shoulder; like all the members of the Royal party in uniform, her Majesty wore a black crepe band round the left arm in mourning for the recently-deceased Prince Charles of Leiningen. A black riding-hat, with gold band and red and white feathers, completed the Queen's ensemble. The Prince Consort wore the uniform of a Field Marshal and Prince Frederick William that of the Prussian Guards. The Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred wore Highland tartans, and rode ponies. The ceremony of decoration commenced, the recipients advancing one by one and being introduced by Sir Charles Wood (Navy) and Sir George Wetherall (Army). The Secretary-at-War, Lord Panmure, was in close attendance, and himself handed the Crosses to the Queen, who affixed them, with a smile, to the heroes' jackets. All sixty-one decorations were bestowed in little more than ten minutes. The occasion is depicted in a water-colour painting, reproduced above, which may have been the work of Constantin Guys (who was a special artist for *The Illustrated London News* covering the Crimean War) and in an engraving which appeared in *The Illustrated London News* of July 4, 1857.

ANTICIPATION: *CHRISTINE* GAZES DOWN AT THE TREE FROM THE STAIRCASE.

REALISATION: *CHRISTINE* PLAYS WITH ONE OF HER NEW TOYS BY THE TREE.

UNCERTAINTY: *CHRISTINE* IS NOT QUITE SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF THE BABY DOLL.

TEMPTATION: *CHRISTINE* TRIES TO SEE JUST WHAT THE TREE IS MADE OF.

FRUSTRATION: THE TREE HAS FALLEN OVER AND *CHRISTINE* IS SUBDUED.

CONSOLATION: THREE BIG CANDY STICKS COMPLETE *CHRISTINE*'S PERFECT DAY.

CHRISTINE'S WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS: EVENTS IN A YOUNG CHIMPANZEE'S EXCITING DAY.

In 1953 we first introduced our readers to *Christine*, the baby chimpanzee which was adopted by Miss Lilo Hess in 1952 and has since been brought up at her home in Pennsylvania. *Christine* appeared to enjoy Christmas with much the same kind of naive glee as a small child of the same age. After viewing the gaily-decorated tree from a vantage-place on the stairs, the young chimp was soon playing with her new toys. In her enthusiasm the tree got knocked over and *Christine* whimpered with fright, but she was soon reassured and the gift of three large candy sticks proved a great consolation. [*Colour photographs by Lilo Hess.*]

A SYMBOL OF "THE PEOPLE'S VIGIL IN DEFENCE OF THEIR LIBERTIES": THE SILVER BELL OF THE WILLIAMSBURG AWARD, OF WHICH SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL IS THE FIRST RECIPIENT.

At a dinner at Drapers' Hall, attended by distinguished guests from the United States and Britain, on December 7, Sir Winston Churchill was the first recipient of the Williamsburg Award, a new American award for "outstanding achievements in advancing basic principles of liberty and justice." The award has been created by the Trustees of Williamsburg, the restored eighteenth-century capital of the former British colony in Virginia, and was presented to Sir Winston by Mr. Winthrop Rockefeller, the Chairman of the Trustees. The award consists of an honorarium of $10,000 (£3570) and a silver copy of the colonial Town Crier's bell which is shown on this page. The Trustees of the Williamsburg Award stated that the reasons for their unanimous selection of Sir Winston Churchill have been "admirably summed up in the words of his biographer, Mr. E. D. O'Brien," in what is described as "a superb summation of Sir Winston's many-sided career" which appeared in "An Eightieth Year Tribute to Winston Churchill," published by *The Illustrated London News* in 1954. The Town Crier's bell was chosen as the symbol of the Williamsburg Award because in the eighteenth century the Town Crier summoned the citizens to play their part in making and carrying out decisions destined to form the framework of government by the people, and it is the symbol of the people's vigil in defence of their liberties.

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FLOWERS THAT BRING HEALING: IN A BOUQUET FIT FOR A QUEEN: THE BOUQUET PRESENTED TO H.M. THE QUEEN ON HER VISIT TO THE ROYAL LONDON HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL.

KEY TO NUMBERS.

(Note: some numbers are repeated in different parts of the key.)

1. Rose.
2. Gentian (*G. sino-ornata*).
3. White Jasmine (*J. officinale*).
4. Daisy.
5. Primrose.
6. St. John's Wort berries (*Hypericum* sp.).
7. Yellow Jasmine (*J. nudiflorum*).
8. Ceanothus.
9. Cyclamen (*C. neapolitanum*).
10. Salvia (Clary).
11. Lily of the Valley.
12. Rosemary.
13. Acorn.
14. Horse Chestnut seed.
15. Yew berries.
16. Honeysuckle berries.
17. Shepherd's purse.
18. Iris seeds (*I. fœtidissima*).
19. Fool's parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*).
20. Marigold (*Calendula* sp.).
21. Valerian.
22. Mimosa (*Acacia* sp.).
23. Scots Fir cone.
24. Laurustinus (*Viburnum tinus*).
25. Hawthorn berries.
26. Alder seeds.
27. Barberry berries (*Berberis* sp.).
28. Viola.
29. Wild strawberry fruits.
30. Strawberry-tree flowers (*Arbutus* sp.).
31. Snowberry berry (*Symphoricarpus*).
32. Ivy flowers.
33. Holly leaves and berries.
34. Stonecrop (*Sedum* sp.).
35. Nettle.
36. Clematis, seed-head.
37. Spindle berries (*Euonymus* sp.).
38. Laburnum seed pods.
39. Plantain (*Plantago* sp.).
40. Mistletoe leaves.
41. Thuja foliage.
42. Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*).

WHEN H.M. the Queen visited the Royal London Homœopathic Hospital (of which she is Patron) on November 10, the bouquet presented to her was of a unique description, and was, indeed, one in which she took a great interest. We are privileged to reproduce a colour photograph of this bouquet, with a key to the flowers, fruits and leaves of which it was composed. As can be seen, it was made somewhat in the shape of a handbag, with a cord handle for convenience of carrying; but its principal interest is that every plant shown in it is used in medicine, and particularly in homœopathic medicine. We name forty-two of these plants in the key; and there are a few others which it is too difficult to indicate. Further, when it is remembered that this bouquet was compiled (by a doctor) in November—in the "dead water" of the floral year—it is a remarkable commentary on both the beauty and the variety of plants which can be used medicinally to alleviate man's suffering. It must be admitted, however, that some of the medicinal plants are represented here by their close relations, perhaps handsomer relations or perhaps simply more conveniently in flower. For example, the gentian most commonly used in medicine is *G. lutea*, there are many acacias and mimosas used, not all roses are equally useful, nor is the Roast Beef Plant (*Iris fœtidissima*) the only iris to contribute to the Pharmacopœia.

BEAUTY AND HEALING: A ROYAL BOUQUET OF FLOWERS AND FRUITS USED IN MEDICINE.